

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 237

By Hurley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Kingston, Tennessee upon being designated as a Tree City, U.S.A.

WHEREAS, when the first Europeans set foot on this continent, the area that was to become Tennessee, along with most of the eastern portion of the continent, was covered with climax forests composed of magnificent stands of American chestnut, oak, tulip poplar, sycamores, and other hardwoods, as well as various conifers at higher elevations among the Appalachian chain; and

WHEREAS, early settlers cleared the land, and by the lessons of history, learned the value of a forest cover as flooding and erosion increased; the forest disappeared even faster as wood was required by early steam railroads and the effects of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the appreciation of forests grew, and reforestation began to take place; the Tennessee Valley Authority general policies on flood control contributed to that new attitude; and

WHEREAS, the National Arbor Day Foundation has encouraged tree planting by selecting various communities as Tree City U.S.A. designees, if such communities have a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day proclamation and observance; and

WHEREAS, recently Kingston, Tennessee was recognized as a Tree City U.S.A. by the Arbor Day Foundation and the United States Department of Agriculture Forestry Service in honor of its exemplary stewardship of its urban forests; and

WHEREAS, as part of this befitting honor, Kingston will receive preferential treatment when applying for Forestry Service grants; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate this momentous occasion, the city held an Arbor Day celebration on April 3, 2012, at Kingston Elementary School, with Mayor Troy Beets presiding; and

WHEREAS, Kingston established an official city tree, the beautiful red bud, and, with the invaluable assistance of the Fort Southwest Point Daughters of the American Revolution, the citizenry engaged in an ambitious red bud planting effort around the city; and

WHEREAS, Kingston's designee as a Tree City, U.S.A. is worthy of our approbation and special recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that this General Assembly offers the citizens of Kingston its heartiest congratulations upon being designated as a Tree City U.S.A. and profound thanks for that community's efforts to preserve this state's natural beauty, clean air, and livability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.